

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 ACDA-07

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2908

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINS, US, WB, CZ, GW

SUBJECT: CZECH PROTEST AGAINST BERLIN POLICE

1. SUMMARY: HEAD OF CZECH MILITARY MISSION CALLED ON U.S. OFFICER ON AUGUST 5 AND MADE ORAL RESPONSE TO US STATEMENT OF AUGUST 3. CZECH REAFFIRMED CONTENTS OF AUGUST 2 NOTE, DENIED THAT SIMEK WAS ENGAGING IN ESPIONAGE AND CLAIMED SIMEK'S ARREST BY BERLIN POLICE WAS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW. END SUMMARY.

2. AT NOON ON AUGUST 5, ACTING CHIEF OF CZECH MIL MISSION KOUBA CALLED ON ACTING U.S. PROTOCOL OFFICER TO MAKE ORAL RESPONSE TO US STATEMENT OF AUGUST 3. KOUBA'S STATEMENT, WHICH HE MADE IN ENGLISH, FOLLOWS:
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QTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK

SOCALIST REPUBLIC MUST REAFFIRM THE CONTENTS OF THE NOTE OF AUGUST 2. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE DENIES THAT MR. SIMEK WAS ENGAGING IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. SUCH CHARGES ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION. THE US DETERMINATION THAT ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST THE BERLIN POLICE WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION IS REJECTED. ON THE CONTRARY, THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE BELIEVES THAT THE APPREHENSION OF MR. SIMEK BY THE BERLIN POLICE WAS IN SHARP CONTRADICTION TO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT IS AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT MR. SIMEK WAS EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE BY THE WEST BERLIN POLICE. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTERPRETS THE US STATEMENT TO MEAN THAT THE US SIDE AGREES THAT THE APPREHENSION OF MR. SIMEK WAS IN CONTRADICTION TO INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC LAW. UNQTE.

3. MISOFF TOLD KOUBA THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO US STATEMENT OF AUGUST 3 AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HIS LATEST APPROACH WOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED. KOUBA WAS REMINDED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE WAS TO BLAME FOR PUBLICITY SINCE US STATEMENT HAD ONLY RESPONDED TO THEIRS.

4. KOUBA SAID HE HAD BEEN BESIGED BY PRESS IN PAST FEW DAYS AND FELT COMPELLED TO HOLD SMALL PRESS CONFERENCE (10-12 JOURNALISTS) AT HIS HOME AT 3 P.M. ON AUGUST 5. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY PRESS FOR COPIES OF HIS NOTE OF AUGUST 2 BUT INSTEAD PLANNED TO DISTRIBUTE ONLY COPIES OF RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE WHICH REPORTED HIS PROTEST. IN ADDITION HE WOULD DENY THAT SIMEK WAS ENGAGING IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY AND WOULD REAFFIRM CZECH BELIEF THAT HE WAS MISTREATED BY BERLIN POLICE. KOUBA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MATTER WOULD BE CONCLUDED BY END OF WEEK SO THAT NEXT WEEK "WE CAN HAVE SOME BEER TOGETHER".

5. MISSION BELIEVES THIS IS PROBABLY END OF EPISODE AS FAR AS CZECHS ARE CONCERNED AND THAT THEY ONLY WANT TO GET IN THE LAST WORD. WE PLAN TO MAKE NO FURTHER STATEMENTS TO PRESS AND IF ASKED, WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPOND ONLY THAT WE HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO OUR STATEMENT OF AUGUST 3, AND THAT STATEMENT STILL STANDS. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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